# WING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

# PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1971

## LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

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Aston Abbotts

Cheddington

Cublington

Edlesborough, including Dagnall and Northall

Great Brickhill

Grove

Ivinghoe and Ivinghoe Aston

Marsworth

Mentmore

Pitstone

Slapton, including Horton

Soulbury

Stoke Hammond

Wing

Wingrave and Rowsham

# 1971
# WING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
J. M. Raven, Esq.

VICE-CHAIRMAN
H. F. Broad, Esq.

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Members

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Mrs. P. P. Brown
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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
A. W. Pringle, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
G. F. Slocombe, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
W. E. Thompson, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
D. G. Hobday, M.A.P.H.I.

# WING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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"Brooklands",
8 Leighton Road,
Leighton Buzzard

To the Chairman and Members
of the Wing Rural District Council

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

If, like the Chinese, one wanted to give a year a name, 1971 might be called the Year of the Environment. The establishment of a Ministry specifically concerned with the environment played a considerable part in drawing everyone's attention to the dangers of allowing industrial waste of all sorts to continue to pollute our land, sea and air, and led to a general assessment of the value to the quality of our lives of maintaining a healthy and pleasant environment. This is no easy task because of the conflicting interests involved, but clearly there was a new determination to strike a balance between an advancing technology, with its prospects of increasing wealth, and the natural expectation of a safe environment. These two objectives are not incompatible provided a strong line is taken and there are encouraging signs that this is the intention. No cases of dumping of dangerous industrial waste were reported in the District during the year, although other waste has been all too frequently dumped in ditches and other unauthorised places. There are several local industries which cause nuisance from time to time due to non-toxic atmospheric pollution, but these have been in the locality for many years and are conscious of the need to reduce pollution by any available means. They serve as a reminder, if any is needed, that once an industry with potential for the production of nuisances becomes established it is very often a slow and difficult business to achieve abatement.

Last year in my Report I wrote about the uncertainties which existed about the future structure of an integrated National Health Service, and the role which the present Public Health Service would be required to perform within it. Since then the way ahead has become only a little clearer and planning is still more in the nature of a theoretical exercise than a practical possiblity. The last of four Government Papers is expected this summer, which will allow something under two years to bring about the radical changes required if the service is to be ready to function on 1st April, 1974. However, I have no doubt that it can be done, but it will require a period of intensive administrative work lasting considerably after 1974, and the greatest care will have to be taken that patient care in no way suffers while the new order is being established. With regard to the relationship between the newly constituted Area Health Board and the District Council it would seem that the Community Physician, although employed by the latter, would be seconded to the

District Council and would be under some form of contact to provide advice to the Council on environmental health and control of infectious diseases. The report of the Working Party on Collaboration, established by the Minister, is expected to be available in the first half of 1972 and should give some useful pointers.

There is nothing remarkable about the vital statistics for 1971. The birth rate for the District showed a slight increase on the previous year. However, in common with that of England and Wales it has shown a steady decline over the past 10 years. For example, ten years ago the local rate was 18.1 (16.8 in 1971) and the national rate was 17.4 (16.0 in 1971). If this decline continues some of the national population forecasts made earlier in the last decade will have to be modified. It has been pointed out that it will only take a small further decline and there will be no natural population increase. This, of course, applies to the country as a whole without taking into consideration regional variations in the birth rate.

The infant mortality rate was marginally below that for the previous year and considerably below that for England and Wales.

It is good to be able to report that once again there were no maternal deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year three new cases of Tuberculosis were notified. This gives a rate of 0.27 per 1000 of the population which is roughly in line with the rates in the other Districts. When dealing with small population groups it is always a better guide to look at the figures over the previous 10 year period and these have given a uniformly low rate. However, in spite of vaccination of school children, contact tracing and effective treatment there remains a small residue of cases annually which are proving very difficult to eradicate.

## VENEREAL DISEASE

Figures obtained from the special clinic at the Royal Bucks Hospital show that there were fewer cases attending with venereal disease than the previous year. For the second year in succession there were no new cases of syphilis and looking back over the last ten years this disease shows a steady decline locally. The number of new cases of gonorrhoea was 14, and it is interesting to note that 41 other people consulted the specialist and were found not to be suffering from venereal conditions.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A glance at the table showing prevalence of Infectious Diseases will show that there was a considerable fall in the number of measles notifications as compared with the previous year. However, the response to measles vaccination has not been as satisfactory as one would hope, mainly, I believe, because of the slight febrile reaction which occurs in some cases a few days after vaccination. It is very short-sighted not to have children vaccinated because of the possibility that they may suffer a mild indisposition when a quite serious illness could be avoided later. Until such time as a sufficiently high general level of immunity can be achieved, it can be expected that limited outbreaks of the disease will continue.

Notifications of dysentery and food poisoning continued at a low level. Each case was visited and specimens taken from contacts for laboratory examination. Particular attention was paid to food handling contacts and school children who were isolated until cleared. Several visits to farms where cattle were known to be infected were made and preventive measures instituted.

## DRUG DEPENDENCE

The Committee continued to meet and discuss ways of assessing and preventing drug abuse. One concrete and worthwhile achievement was a general agreement reached with local pharmacists and medical practitioners that amphetamine drugs would no longer be held in stock locally. A pilot scheme for obtaining information on the number of incidents of drug abuse was put into operation, and may prove worth applying generally. At their request a successful course on drugs was held for school teachers in Aylesbury in September. The so-called soft drugs constitute the main problem in this area, and the Committee did not have any evidence that there was an increase in their use during the year.

## MEDICAL STUDENTS

I had the pleasure of welcoming and talking to a total of 12 medical students at different times throughout the year. These students had elected to spend two weeks during their final year learning about Local Authority Health Services, and I was mainly concerned in teaching them about those services administered by District Councils. It is very encouraging to see that an increasing number of students are sufficiently interested in preventive medical services to give up two weeks during a busy year to study them in practice.

Another successful course on food hygiene for those engaged in the food industry was held at the Aylesbury College of Further Education. Nineteen people passed the Certificate Examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene at the end of the spring term 1971. It should be recorded that Miss M. Blears, Head of the Department of Catering, Fashion and Home Management, at the College, has been responsible for the organisation of these courses which have made a valuable contribution to maintaining the standard of food hygiene in the area. Those of us who contribute by lecturing consider our time well spent.

Once again I would like to thank you for your advice and support throughout the year, and to acknowledge the willing help received from my Deputy Dr. Slocombe and staff of the Health Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE, B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health*

| | 1970 | 1971 |
|---|---|---|
| Area in acres | 36,502 | 36,502 |
| Population | 10,120 | 10,770 |
| Number of Habitable Properties assessed for rating | 3,667 | 3,903 |
| Rateable Value | £469,268 | £498,960 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £1,824 | £5,224 |
| **BIRTHS** | | |
| Legitimate Males | 79 | 86 |
| ,, Females | 76 | 85 |
| Illegitimate Males | 6 | 5 |
| ,, Females | 4 | 5 |
| Stillbirths | — | 2 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 16.3 | 16.8 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) | 17.3 | 16.9 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Eng. & Wales) | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| **DEATHS** | | |
| Males | 57 | 60 |
| Females | 33 | 51 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | 8.9 | 10.3 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) | 8.2 | — |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Eng. & Wales) | 11.9 | 11.6 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate | Nil | Nil |
| ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) | Nil | Nil |
| ,, ,, ,, (Eng. & Wales) | Not Available | Not Available |
| Infantile Mortality Rate | 12 | 11 |
| ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) | — | 16.0 |
| ,, ,, ,, (Eng. & Wales) | 18 | 18 |
| **CAUSES OF DEATH** | | |
| Cancer | 17 | 19 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 3 |
| Hypertensive Disease | — | 1 |
| Heart Disease | 39 | 46 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 13 | 13 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 4 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 2 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | 6 | 3 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 1 | — |
| Asthma | — | 2 |
| Peptic Ulcer | — | 1 |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | — | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | — | 3 |
| Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System | — | 1 |
| Congenital anomalies | --- | 1 |
| Birth, Injury and Difficult Labour | 1 | 1 |
| Other causes of Perinatal Mortality | 1 | --- |
| Symptoms and ill defined conditions | --- | 1 |
| All Other Accidents | 1 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 91 | 111 |

## (B) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for bacteriological investigation are sent to the Public Health Laboratories at Aylesbury, Luton, and Oxford. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis are sent to London.

### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These are provided by the Bucks County Council, and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Eleven ambulances and five dual purpose vehicles and an Ambulance/sitting/wheel chair purpose-built vehicle with hydraulic tail lift were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters. The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties are conveyed to the Casualty Department at the Royal Bucks Hospital.

### 3. CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

| | *Times Open* | *Sessions* | *Total No. of children attending* | *No. of times Doctor attended* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cheddington | 12 | 2nd Monday | 89 | 12 |
| Edlesborough | 12 | 3rd Monday | 78 | 12 |
| Ivinghoe | 23 | 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 174 | 23 |
| Ivinghoe Aston | 12 | 1st Tuesday | 10 | 11 |
| Wing | 24 | 1st & 3rd Friday | 106 | 12 |
| Wingrave | 11 | 1st Thursday | 53 | 10 |
| Slapton | 12 | 1st Tuesday | 16 | 12 |
| Marsworth | 12 | 1st Tuesday | 21 | 12 |
| Stoke Hammond | 10 | 4th Monday | 17 | 6 |
| Great Brickhill | 12 | 1st Friday | 30 | 12 |
| | | TOTAL | 594 | |

There has been a change in emphasis in examinations carried out at these Clinics. Whereas in the past they were directed towards revealing physical defects and nutritional faults only, they are now equally concerned with the child's developmental progress. The children are seen, if possible, soon after birth and thereafter periodically to compare their progress with developmental norms for their age. Early methods of testing vision, hearing and other

senses have been devised by Dr. Mary Sheridon and others, and these are also applied with a view to detection and treatment of defects as early as possible. Closer ties with the hospital paediatric department have been developed so that, after consultation with the child's general practitioner, specialist advice can be easily obtained. The usual range of child immunisations including more recently measles, are carried out at the Clinics.

### 4. CHEST CLINICS

Under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department, clinics are maintained at Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury and at Bletchley. Sessions are held weekly and are attended by a Specialist in Chest Diseases. The work of these clinics is invaluable in the control of, and prevention of the spread of Tuberculosis. There is a close working relationship between the chest physician and the Medical Officer of Health.

### 5. HOSPITALS

(a) Infectious Diseases—Cases were admitted to the following Hospitals:

Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury. Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea.

(b) Tuberculosis—Cases are admitted to the Tindal General Hospital and Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard.

(c) General—All acute medical and surgical cases are now admitted to Stoke Mandeville Hospital which, also admits paraplegic cases from a wide area. The Royal Bucks Hospital is still the main centre for outpatient clinics but as far as in-patients are concerned beds are mainly for orthopaedic, accident and maternity cases. Tindal General Hospital admits chest cases, including tuberculosis, geriatrics and chronic sick elderly patients. It also provides some accommodation for older mentally subnormal males.

### 6. DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION AND POLIOMYELITIS, SMALLPOX MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES VACCINATION

The Bucks County Council, being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act, 1946, administer these services

### 7. TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE

A venereal disease clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

## (C) PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

| NOTIFICATIONS | 1970 | 1971 |
|---|---|---|
| Measles | 73 | 27 |
| Scarlet Fever | 3 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | 3 | 3 |
| Others | — | 5 |

A. W. PRINGLE,

*Medical Officer of Health*

"Brooklands",
8 Leighton Road,
Leighton Buzzard,
Beds.

To the Chairman and Members
of Wing Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1971.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. E. THOMPSON, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.S.H.,
*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.*

## (D) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

### 1. WATER SUPPLY

The Bucks Water Board, of which the Rural District Council are a constituent authority, have continued to supply mains water to every Parish and every hamlet except Mentmore Village which has its own private estate supply, Grove Hospital which has its supply from Mid Beds Water Board and a few properties near the Hertfordshire border which have piped supplies from Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All these supplies are regularly sampled and generally found to be satisfactory. Only 38 isolated houses have to depend on their own private wells for domestic water supply.

### 2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The scheme for enlarging the Wingrave works to cater for the new development planned for the village is virtually completed.

The Council's Consulting Civil Engineers are preparing a detailed scheme for the enlargement and improvement of the Marsworth/Cheddington sewerage system. Tenders will be invited in the early part of the new year.

Schemes for pumping sewage from Stoke Hammond to Bletchley and from Slapton to Northall are being prepared and it is hoped that these will be started during 1972.

## 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All household and some trade refuse is collected from all parishes by nine men on four vehicles, the men now being on a short term productivity bonus scheme of wages. This agreement together with the changeover to paper sacks held in fully guarded sack holders has resulted in a cleaner, more hygienic and efficient system of collection at weekly intervals.

All households in the District have been supplied with sack holders during the year.

Although the Council has acquired the use of a disused quarry inside its own District as a refuse tip, all refuse collected at present is delivered to the Newton Longville tip under the control of Bletchley Urban District Council.

Preparatory works of fencing, treeplanting and erection of garage buildings has been undertaken and the refuse tip should be fully operational within a few months.

## 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public swimming baths in the District, but by arrangement with the G.L.C. the swimming bath at Stockgrove Park School is used by schools and youth organisations.

# (E) HOUSING

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Since the introduction of the Housing Act 1969 which made allowance for higher Improvement and Standard Grants, the number of applications submitted has increased substantially.

During the year 55 applications for Improvement Grants were received and approved. The average grant approved amounted to some £600 per dwelling.

Standard grant applications numbered 11.

It is observed that many owners are carrying out larger schemes of improvement now, the Improvement Grant being more popular than the standard grant. The number of tenanted houses improved is still, regretably, small but it is hoped that landlords will take full advantage of the attractive grants now available.

The Council's houses all have bathrooms.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Council Houses completed during year .. | 66 |
| Number of private houses completed during year .. | 163 |
| Number of Council Houses under construction at end of year .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 10 |
| Number of private Houses under construction at end of year .. .. .. .. .. | 113 |

Action taken under the Housing Acts includes:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | Number of houses found to be unfit | — |
| (b) | Number of houses closed | — |
| (c) | Number of houses demolished | 6 |
| (d) | Number of statutory notices to repair houses | 3 |
| (e) | Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action | 7 |
| (f) | Number of houses made fit after statutory notices | |
| | (i) by owner | — |
| | (ii) by Council | — |
| (g) | Number of families rehoused | — |
| (h) | Common Lodging Houses—There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District | |

## (F) FOOD

Two cases of milk infected with Brucella were notified to the department and investigations carried out. The infections were cleared and restrictions imposed for the sale of milk.

Salmonellae organisms were isolated from farm animals in two instances and these cases were followed up to give Public Health clearance.

A successful court action was taken under the Food and Drugs Act by the Council against a village shopkeeper for the sale of a mouldy steak and kidney pie.

| | **Bakehouses** | 1971 |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Number on register | 2 |
| (ii) | Fitted to comply with regulation 16 | 2 |
| (iii) | Regulation 19 applies to | 2 |
| (iv) | Fitted to comply with regulation 19 | 2 |
| | **Licensed Houses** | |
| (i) | Number on register | 39 |
| (ii) | Fitted to comply with regulation 16 | 39 |
| (iii) | Regulation 19 applies to | 39 |
| (iv) | Fitted to comply with regulation 19 | 39 |
| | **Retail Stores** | |
| (i) | Number on register | 38 |
| (ii) | Fitted to comply with regulation 16 | 38 |
| (iii) | Regulation 19 applies to | 22 |
| (iv) | Fitted to comply with regulation 19 | 18 |
| | **Cafes and Canteens** | |
| (i) | Number on register | 4 |
| (ii) | Fitted to comply with regulation 16 | 4 |
| (iii) | Regulation 19 applies to | 4 |
| (iv) | Fitted to comply with regulation 19 | 4 |
| | Milk Distributors | 4 |
| | **Ice Cream Retailers** | |
| | Number on Register at end of year | 43 |
| | New licences granted during the year | 1 |

## (G) RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a Rodent Operative to carry o ut this work jointly under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors of Wing and Winslow R.D.C.'s.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of properties inspected .. .. .. | 1,358 |
| Number of treatments carried out .. .. .. | 229 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served .. .. .. | Nil |

All the Council's sewage disposal works and refuse tips were treated regularly and sewer treatments were carried out at Marsworth Wing, Ivinghoe, Horton and Stoke Hammond.

## (H) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

One slaughterhouse is in use in the District and the meat is regularly inspected by qualified Meat Inspectors. (see Table over)

| | |
|---|---|
| Licences to slaughter animals during the year .. .. | 4 |

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

| | *Cattle Excluding Cows* | *Cows* | *Calves* | *Sheep and Lambs* | *Pigs* | *Horses* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed | 4413 | 89 | 165 | 8501 | 25401 | — |
| Number inspected | 4413 | 89 | 165 | 8501 | 25401 | — |
| **All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci** | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 22 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 714 | 22 | 3 | 389 | 975 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 16.20 | 26.97 | 3.03 | 4.60 | 3.92 | — |
| **Tuberculosis only:** | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | — | — | — | — | 184 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | — | — | — | — | 0.72 | — |
| **Cysticercosis:** | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 12 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |

### Meat and Offal Condemned

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuberculosis | 1840 lbs. |
| Other Diseases | 21840 lbs. |

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| *Premises* (1) | *Number on Register* (2) | *Inspections* (3) | *No. of Written notices* (4) | *Occupiers prosecuted* (5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 11 | 3 | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. | 42 | 7 | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 53 | 10 | Nil | Nil |

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found.

| *Particulars* (1) | *Number of cases in which defects were found* | | | | *Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted* (6) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Found* (2) | *Reme-died* (3) | *Referred To H.M. Inspector* (4) | *By H.M. Inspector* (5) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | Nil | Nil | — | — | Nil |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | Nil | Nil | — | — | Nil |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient | Nil | Nil | — | — | Nil |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | — | — | Nil |
| TOTAL | 1 | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil |

3. Number of Outworkers

| | |
|---|---|
| Making, Cleaning and Washing of Wearing apparel .. | 27 |
| The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper .. .. .. .. | 23 |
| Brush making .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 |
| Total .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 51 |

**Petroleum Acts and Orders**

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered number of licences .. .. .. .. | 35 |
| Storage capacity 500 gallons or less .. .. .. | 19 |
| Storage capacity between 500 and 1,000 gallons .. | 4 |
| Storage capacity over 1,000 gallons .. .. .. | 12 |

All underground storage tanks more than 20 years old have been tested to Home Office requirements or replaced.

**Moveable Dwellings**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of licensed sites .. .. .. .. .. | 14 |
| Individual caravans: | |
| (a) Occupied temporarily for housing .. .. | 12 |
| (b) Used occasionally .. .. .. .. | 2 |
| Number of inspections .. .. .. .. .. | 4 |
| Nuisances found to exist .. .. .. .. .. | Nil |
| Temporary Buildings .. .. .. .. .. | Nil |

W. E. THOMPSON,

*Public Health Inspector*